

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 were pending in the present application. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14, 20-21, 23, 25-29, 31, 33-35, 37, 39, 43, and 45-54 have been amended. Claims 1, 24, and 44 have been canceled, and new claims 55-57 have been added. As a result of this amendment, claims 2-23, 25-43, and 45-57 remain pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested in light of the accompanying amendment and remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's statement that claims 6-8, 16-19, 21, 23, 30-33, 40-43, 49, 50, 53, and 54 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The independent claims have been rewritten (claim 1 as claim 55, claim 24 as claim 56, and claim 44 as claim 57). The plasticizer/accelerator has been removed from the resin component in independent claims 55-56 and placed in dependent claims. The hardener component has been amended to recite the amounts of various components, the amounts having been taken from claims 7, and 17, 31, and 41 which were indicated to be allowable.

Applicants withdraw the argument that the epoxy-functional butadiene acrylonitrile copolymers in particular and reactive liquid polymers in general do not fall within the scope of internally flexibilized epoxy resin.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 20, 22, 24-26, 28, 34, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Helm (U.S. Patent No. 3,853,812) has been overcome. Helm teaches association products, useful as a hardener for epoxy resins, formed between a liquid polyamine having 3-5 amino hydrogen atoms, a liquid primary monoamine, and a liquid alkylmonophenol. Abstract.

Claims 55, 56, and 57 include most of the limitations of claims 7 and 17, 31, and 41, which were indicated to be allowable. Therefore, claims 55, 56, and 57 are allowable. All of the remaining claims depend from these allowable claims.

With respect to claims 2, 20, 22, and 25, the examiner admitted that Helm does not disclose an initial cure time of less than 3 hours or about 1.5-2 hours. The examiner relies on inherency based on Helm satisfying the chemical/material limitations. However, Helm specifically teaches curing the epoxy and hardener *overnight*. See col. 3, lines 57-60; and col. 2,

lines 3-15. Therefore, Helm does not inherently have an initial cure time as claimed.

Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 20, 22, 24-26, 28, 34, 37, and 38 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made over Helm.

The rejection of claims 3, 5, 10-11, 14-15, 27, 29, 35-36, 39, and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helm in view of Schuft (U.S. Patent No. 6,248,204) has been overcome. Schuft is cited as teaching the combination of a coupling agent, a filler, and a thixotropic agent. Schuft does not remedy the deficiencies of Helm. Therefore, claims 3, 5, 10-11, 14-15, 27, 29, 35-36, 39, and 44-46 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made over Helm in view of Schuft.

The rejection of claims 47, 48, 51, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Helm in view of Cunliffe (U.S. Patent No. 4,107,142) has been overcome. Cunliffe was cited as teaching a butylated bisphenol A epoxy resin. However, Cunliffe does not remedy the deficiencies of Helm. Therefore, claims 47, 48, 51, and 52 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made over Helm in view of Cunliffe.

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#### CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the above amendment and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 2-23, 25-43, and 45-57 be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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